Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

24.   (New) A method for protecting data in a data processing system, the method comprising:

partitioning a hard disk of the data processing system into one or more hidden partitions and one or more non-hidden partitions;

storing a first application and data associated with the first application in the one or more non-hidden partitions;

replacing the first application with a second application; and

moving the data associated with the first application from the one or more non-hidden partitions to the one or more hidden partitions to prevent the second application from accessing the data associated with the first application.

25.   (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

storing data associated with the second application in the one or more hidden partitions; and

moving the data associated with the second application from the one or more hidden partitions to the one or more non-hidden partitions responsive to the first application being replaced by the second application.

26.   (New) The method of claim 24, wherein replacing the first application comprises:

removing the first application from the one or more non-hidden partitions;

packaging the first application into an image file;

forwarding the image file to a storage location; and

loading the second application into the one or more non-hidden partitions.

27.   (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the storage location is on a network.

28.   (New)   The method of claim 24, wherein storing the first application and the data associated with the first application comprises:

storing the first application in one of the one or more non-hidden partitions; and

storing the data associated with the first application in another of the one or more non-hidden partitions.

29.   (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the first application is owned by a first business client and the second application is owned by a second business client different from the first business client.

30.   (New) A hard disk comprising:

a first non-hidden partition storing a first application;

a second non-hidden partition storing data associated with the first application;

a hidden partition;

means for replacing the first application in the first non-hidden partition with a second application; and

means for moving the data associated with the first application from the second non-hidden partition to the hidden partition to prevent the second application from accessing the data associated with the first application.

31. (New) The hard disk of claim 30, wherein data associated with the second application is stored in the hidden partition, the hard disk further comprising:

means for moving the data associated with the second application from the hidden partition to the second non-hidden partition responsive to the first application being replaced by the second application.

32. (New) The hard disk of claim 30, wherein means for replacing the first application comprises:

means for removing the first application from the first non-hidden partition;

means for packaging the first application into an image file;

means for forwarding the image file to a storage location; and

means for loading the second application into the first non-hidden partition.

33. (New) The hard disk of claim 32, wherein the storage location is on a network.

34.   (New) The hard disk of claim 30, wherein the first application is owned by a first business client and the second application is owned by a second business client different from the first business client.

35.   (New) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for protecting data in a data processing system, the computer program comprising instructions for:

partitioning a hard disk of the data processing system into one or more hidden partitions and one or more non-hidden partitions;

storing a first application and data associated with the first application in the one or more non-hidden partitions;

replacing the first application with a second application; and

moving the data associated with the first application from the one or more non-hidden partitions to the one or more hidden partitions to prevent the second application from accessing the data associated with the first application.

36.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for:

storing data associated with the second application in the one or more hidden partitions; and

moving the data associated with the second application from the one or more hidden partitions to the one or more non-hidden partitions responsive to the first application being replaced by the second application.

37. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein replacing the first application comprises:

removing the first application from the one or more non-hidden partitions;

packaging the first application into an image file;

forwarding the image file to a storage location; and

loading the second application into the one or more non-hidden partitions.

38. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 37, wherein the storage location is on a network.

39. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein storing the first application and the data associated with the first application comprises:

storing the first application in one of the one or more non-hidden partitions; and

storing the data associated with the first application in another of the one or more non-hidden partitions.

40. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the first application is owned by a first business client and the second application is owned by a second business client different from the first business client.

41. (New) A data processing system comprising:

a processor;

a storage medium coupled to the processor, wherein the processor includes

a first non-hidden partition storing a first application,

a second non-hidden partition storing data associated with the first application,

and

a hidden partition; and

logic associated with the storage medium, the logic being operable to

replace the first application in the first non-hidden partition with a second

application, and

move the data associated with the first application from the second non-hidden

partition to the hidden partition to prevent the second application from accessing the data

associated with the first application.

42. (New) The data processing system of claim 41, wherein data associated with the second

application is stored in the hidden partition and wherein the logic is further operable to move the

data associated with the second application from the hidden partition to the second non-hidden

partition responsive to the first application being replaced by the second application.

43. (New) The data processing system of claim 41, wherein replacement of the first

application by the logic comprises the logic

removing the first application from the first non-hidden partition;

packaging the first application into an image file;

forwarding the image file to a storage location; and

loading the second application into the first non-hidden partition.

44.   (New)   The data processing system of claim 43, wherein the storage location is on a network.

45.   (New)   The data processing system of claim 41, wherein the first application is owned by a first business client and the second application is owned by a second business client different from the first business client.